

## The Globe Field 2025: Trenches 1/4 and 5: Stratigraphic Narrative

### The Phasing

The phasing developed in 2023/4 for Trench 1/4 has been revised:

2024/5	2023 final	2023 working	provisional dating	notes
1	1	1a	Early 7 <sup>th</sup> century	Cereal processing
2			Late 7 <sup>th</sup> (into 8 <sup>th</sup> ?) century	Metalworking
3a	2	1b	8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> century	Structure at cemetery focus?
3b			Late 8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> century	Child burials
3c			8 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> century	N-S adult burial
4	3	1c	10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> century	Erosion and partial fill of gully
5	4	2	11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> century	Early cultivation
6	5	3	Late 11 <sup>th</sup> – early 12 <sup>th</sup> century	Drystone walls
7a	6a	4a	12 <sup>th</sup> century	Lower upslope cultivation soils
7b	6b	4b	12 <sup>th</sup> – early 13 <sup>th</sup> century	Higher upslope cultivation soils
7c	6c	4c	13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> century	Downslope cultivation soils
8	7	5	14 <sup>th</sup> century	Collapse of N-S wall
9	8	6	18 <sup>th</sup> century	Earlier post-medieval soils
10	9	7	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Post-medieval drains
11	10	8	20 <sup>th</sup> century	20 <sup>th</sup> century cultivation
12	11	9	20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> century	Abandonment

*Table 1: phasing for Trench 1/4*

## 1. Trench 4

### 1a The western arm of Trench 4

#### 1a.1 Agricultural soils

The modern/post-medieval agricultural soils in this area comprised (5000) (the topsoil), overlying (5003) (the post-medieval soil, which pinches out to almost zero thickness at the top of the channel bank, before thickening rapidly to the W end of the trench) and (5010) (which forms a very stoney deposit under (5003) in the thicker, western succession.

Below these levels the main, paler, agricultural soil was context (5006). This produced a large assemblage of pottery (3.2kg), slag (7kg) and bone (2.9kg), with 47 small finds (mainly nails). Context (5028) was separated in terms of finds recording, but was effectively the base of (5006), Context (5028) produced 1904g of slag, 1633g of bone, 137g of medieval pottery and a small number of small finds, most notably a sawn red deer antler.

Context (5006) embraced several stony spreads – (5025) on the wall line, with (5023) stoney patch and (5041) extending to the N away from the wall. The wall itself appeared to survive in three distinct sections, labelled (5038), (5039) and (5040). Context (5025) produced a large medieval rod handle amongst 272g of pottery in total, a few nails (including possibly as many as 6 fiddle key nails), 2916g of slag and 244g of bone, together with a small billet of iron. Context (5023), 161g of slag and 165g of bone; context (5041) yielded no finds.

Contexts (5046) and (5049) were cleaning layers associated with the delimitation of cut features below (5028). Context (5046) produced 94g of medieval pottery, 3494g of slag, 444g of bone, and (5049) 36g pottery, 830g slag, 82g bone.

#### 1a.2 Furrow-like linear features

A possible E-W furrow, a shallow, steep-sided linear cut, 350mm in width and 4m in length, recorded in 2024 as **[4083]** with darker fill (4082) (which produced no pottery, but 28g of bone and 878g of slag), was traced slightly further to the west with no additional finds. This was preserved to 35.12m ASL in the west, rising to 35.35m in the E, with a maximum depth of approximately 70mm.

To the west, three similar features were recorded: N-S linear features [5071] and [5116], together with a short length of E-W linear feature [5064].

'Furrow' **[5064]** had single fill (5048), a brown, slightly stoney deposit indistinguishable from the fill of [5071] to the E. It was typically 340mm in width and was 1.03m in length. Its maximum depth of 70mm was reached where it merged with [5071]. It produced no finds apart from a possible nail head, but was bulk sampled as Sample <16>.

'Furrow' **[5071]** had single fill (5070). This fill produced 33g of slag, 6g of bone and was bulk sampled as sample <22>. The furrow was preserved at 34.69m ASL where it intersected [5107], continuing at that level to the S baulk. In this southern section it was 70mm deep and 340mm wide. At about 1.7m from the S baulk it shallowed to be imperceptible but deepened again northwards. It was visible in the N section of the trench and the apparent width of [5107] may have been artificially exaggerated during excavation and [5071] should have been visible as a distinct feature just S of the N baulk. The relationship between [5071] and [5107] could not be established with certainty. Fill (5070) produced a date on a grain of *Triticum aestivum/turgidum* (Beta-798260; 1440+/-30BP; cal. AD 576-644). The relationship with pit [5113] could also not be established, with the fills of these two features very similar. The fill was bulk sampled as sample <33>.

Furrow **[5116]** had single fill (5110). As with the other 'furrows' the fill was a brownish stony deposit, rather similar to the overlying medieval plough soils. As also with the other furrows, its relationships to the various features it intersected are unclear, although pit [5108] is believed to have cut it. Where the side were well defined, it appeared to range from 340mm width at the south to 400mm in the N. It was typically about 50mm in depth. In places, the feature appeared to cut early small holes in the natural (animal burrows?) that contained darker, more slag-rich fills. The fill (5110) yielded 87g of bone and a single medieval sherd – although the unresolved nature of its relationship with other features may make the actual attribution of the finds uncertain. It was bulk sampled as sample <34>. The initial sondage to investigate this feature was described as cut [5057] (which thus arguably has priority) and fill (5058). 2g of bone was listed with the cut number. Fill (5070) produced a date on a grain of *Triticum aestivum/turgidum* (Beta-798261; 1480+/-30 BP; cal. AD 550-664).

## 1a.2 Substantial postholes (with stone packing)

**[5054]** with single fill (5055). The cut was 630mm NE-SW by 590mm NW-SE, 210-240mm deep. It was centred upon [296662.13, 168657.14]. The truncated surface of the

feature lay at approximately 34.45m and the flat base at 34.21m. Large packing stones were angled on the margin and flat on the base. The fill was a yellowish-brown clay rich deposit with charcoal flecks. It was photographed mid-ex, but not with the packing stones fully revealed. It contained a small quantity of bone (19g), a small quantity of slag (32g), but no pottery; it also yielded small find SF#5237 (a fragment of a large hone stone). It was sampled as bulk sample <15>. Fill (5055) produced dates on two materials: a grain of *Triticum aestivum/turgidum* (Beta-798258; 460+/-30BP; cal. AD 1412-1471) and a fragment of *Prunus* charcoal (Beta-798257; 1270+/-30 BP) that calibrates to cal. AD 664-775 (84.2%), 788-827 (11.0%), 861-862 (0.2%). This makes it likely that posthole [5054] lies with Phase 2 of the current scheme.

**[5078]** with single fill (5079). The cut was 750mm NW-SE by 840mm NE-SW, 210-240mm deep. It was centred upon [296662.93, 168659.99]. The truncated surface of the feature lay at approximately 34.45m and the flat base at 34.03m (making the pit 420mm deep). The fill was a yellowish-brown clay rich deposit with charcoal flecks. Large packing stones were angled on the margin and flat on the base. It was photographed mid-ex, but only with the drone with the packing stones fully revealed. It contained a small quantity of bone (35g), a small quantity of slag (188g), and a single sherd of possibly Roman pottery (SF#5265). It was sampled as bulk sample <19>. Fill (5079) produced dates on two materials: a grain of *Triticum* sp. (Beta-798259; 520+/-30BP; cal. AD 1327-1349 (7.9%), 1395-1444 (87.5%)) and a fragment of *Prunus* charcoal (Beta-798258; 1260+/-30 BP) that calibrates to cal. AD 674-754 (52.6%), 756-776 (8.2%), 785-837 (26.2%), 846-877 (8.4%). This makes it likely that posthole [5054] lies with either Phase 2 or Phase 3 of the current scheme.

**[5115]** with single fill (5105). It was centred upon [296666.31, 168661.22]. The cut where it intersected the cut of [5107] (at 35.45-34.51m ASL) was 430mm NE-SW and 350mm NW-SE, tapering down to 170mm diameter at the base (at 34.03m ASL). The feature was not recognised at higher levels where it cut the fills of [5107], but a gap approximately 600mm wide divided the burnt fill (5106) to the N from the equivalent (5082) to the S, thus may have had a tapering profile. At a high level, a group of stones lay at a high angle across the width of [5107] and although interpreted as a stonier part of the frequently stone-bearing burnt layer (5082), re-evaluation suggests these may have been packing in the SE side of [5115]. The fill (5105) was a greyish brown clay, which produced a tiny quantity of bone (5g). It was bulk sampled as sample <29>. Since this feature cuts gully [5107] interpreted to be of medieval age, this feature must be medieval or younger.

### 1a.3 Other large pits with stones

**[5114]** with upper fill (5111) and an unexcavated lower fill of large stones. This feature lay on the N margin of the 2025 trench, extending along the trench margin for 1.3m and extending a maximum of 430mm into the trench. The top of the cut was preserved at 34.40-34.51m ASL. The curvature suggests that, if circular, the pit would be centred upon [296661.74, 168661.25]. The upper fill (5111) was a greyish clay, with abundant finds including a small amount (42g) of slag, some organic tempered fired clay (daub?), 2 sherds of medieval pottery and a substantial quantity of bone, including articulated ribs currently interpreted as cow (these at 34.29m ASL in the E of the cut). It was bulk sampled as sample <31>. A sample of cow rib produced a date (Beta-798256; 1310 +/- 30 BP) that calibrates to ca. AD 656-708 (47.1%), 713-717 (1.2%), 721-774 (47.1%). This suggests a date within Phase 2 or Phase 3 of the current phasing.

The lower fill was not excavated, but a series of large stones was exposed in the western part of the cut, with the tops of individual stones lying at 34.28 to 34.41m ASL.

Although this pit might be a posthole, it was rather reminiscent of the pits interpreted as soak-aways excavated in 2024 (to the S [4050] with its fills (4055) and (4038); to the NE [4058] with fill (4045)).

### 1a.4 Medieval pits

Two bowl-shaped cut features produced good medieval pottery assemblages. They were both located immediately on the N side of examples of the possible furrows. The pits were 3.7m apart and were also equidistant to less certain features to the west (unnumbered area 3.70m west) and east (3.4m to the east was probable cut [5097] each of which was recorded in the field as being possible examples of rooting rather than a cut feature.

Pit **[5108]** with its single fill (5109), was centred upon [296663.48236702, 168658.16059071]. It was sub-circular in plan, 560mm in diameter. The cut showed at 33.54 to 34.57m ASL and was at its deepest centrally at 34.30m ASL (making it 240-270mm deep). The feature probably, but not certainly, cut the furrow [5110] to its W. The fill produced 26g of slag, 8g of bone and 4 sherds (37g) of medieval pottery (including a

substantial piece of rim from a Vale Ware jar and a sherd of incurved dish). The fill was sampled as bulk sample <32>.

Pit **[5113]** with its single fill (5112) was centred upon [296666.84, 168659.74]. It was sub-circular in plan, 530mm by 580mm, and was revealed at 34.68 to 34.73m ASL, with its base at 34.51m ASL, making it 170mm to 220mm in depth. The feature overlapped with uncertain relationship the furrow [5071] to its W. The fill produced 28g of bone and 3 sherds (25g) of medieval pottery.

Pit **[5118]** was rejected as a feature during excavation, because its fill was indistinguishable from the overlying medieval deposits and because it was very shallow, with the cut showing on the surface of the natural at 34.12m ASL on the west side and 34.20m on the east. It was sub-circular in plan, 580mm by 600mm. No finds were recorded. The pit was centred upon [296660.11, 168656.68]. The deeper section of the cut was up to 60mm below natural to the west and 130mm below natural to the E, i.e. at approximately 34.06m ASL.

Pit **[5097]** with its single fill (5098) was rejected as a feature during excavation, because its fill was indistinguishable from the overlying medieval deposits and because the fill appeared to underrun the natural to the E, suggesting it was the result of rooting. The feature was centred upon [296669.87, 168661.11]. The feature produced 57g of slag, 1g of bone and a single sherd (17g) of medieval pottery. Fill (5098) was bulk sampled as sample <22>.

### 1a.5 Possible pits/postholes with medieval pottery

Pit **[5052]** with single fill (5053) is centred upon [296661.18, 168659.28]. The fill produced 1g of bone and a single sherd (4g) of medieval pottery. It was sampled as sample <14>. The pit is subcircular in plan, 780mm in diameter, with its base at 34.28m ASL, cutting the natural at 34.37m ASL in the W and 34.48m in the E, so approximately 160mm deep.

Pit **[5065]** with single fill (5050) is centred upon [296664.55, 168659.99]. The fill yielded a single sherd (12g) of medieval pottery, 32g of slag, and 28g on bone. It was bulk-

sampled as sample <17>. It is 34.59m ASL at the natural and was recorded as having a step at a depth of 170mm, then dropping to 280mm deep. In plan it is 490mm by 410mm.

Pit **[5080]** with single fill (5117) is centred upon [296662.65, 168658.95]. The fill produced 2 sherds of probable medieval pottery (6g). The fill was not bulk-sampled. The pit lies on the line of, and was probably dug through, furrow [5116]. In plan it is 360mm diameter and was roundedly conical. The cut intersects the natural at approximately 34.50m ASL, the depth was 230mm below the adjacent natural and 110mm below the base of [5116] i.e. approximately 34.33m ASL.

### 1a.6 Possible pits/postholes without medieval pottery

Pit **[5059]** with single fill (5060) was centred upon [296661.72, 168658.78]. There were no finds, and the context was not sampled. The base was at 34.36m ASL, with the cut passing the natural at 34.44m to 34.48m ASL, so the feature was approximately 120mm deep. In plan, it measured 480x330mm.

Pit **[5066]** with single fill 5067 was centred upon [296661.91, 168658.39]. The fill produced 736g of slag (wrongly placed under cut number). The fill was not sampled. The cut showed on the natural at 34.50m ASL with the base at 34.37m ASL, so it was 130mm deep. In plan, it measured 210x170mm.

Pit **[5068]** with single fill (5069) was centred upon [[296662.00, 168658.11]. There were no finds, and the fill was not sampled. The top showed at 34.45m ASL. And the feature was 100mm deep. In plan it measured 270mm x 220 mm.

Pit **[5074]** with single fill (5075) (note this is erroneously recorded as (5071) in the GPS data) was centred upon [296667.17, 168663.04], measured 430x580mm. Its depth was 170mm; the feature appeared at 34.80m ASL (making the base at approximately 34.63m ASL). The fill yielded 49g slag and 5g bone. The profile as dug was steep sided and flat bottomed.

Pit **[5084]** with single fill (5083) was centred at [296663.64, 168661.58]. The fill produced just 14g of slag. The feature was observed cutting the natural at 34.53m ASL. The depth was 130mm (i.e. the base was at 34.40m ASL). In plan it was 340mm in diameter. It had a conical profile.

Two features were dismissed the by the excavators as just irregularities on the base of the post-medieval soil (and possibly rooting). However, these two (currently un-numbered) features do have a regular shape as dug:

The southern abuts [5118], is sub-circular in plan, 500mm by 600mm, mostly 80mm in depth but with a sub-conical deeper section in the west of up to 150mm deep.

The northern is bowl-shaped, 430mm by 370mm and 220mm deep measured against the upslope natural to the E (at 34.16m ASL), and 60mm below the downslope rim (at 34.06m ASL) making the deepest part approximately 34.00mASL.

These features were probably covered by contexts (5103) (the southern circular feature) and (5104) (presumably to the north) both interpreted by the excavators as merely the base of (5003)/(5010). (5104) produced 4543g of slag and 233g of bone.

### 1a.7 Medieval gully

Gully **[5107]** crossed the entire trench on a NW-SE course. In the SE it was both narrow (approximately 470mm wide) and shallow (The NE side was at 34.74m ASL and the SW side at 34.71m ASL, with the centreline at 34.54m ASL). At 2m into the trench the base was at 34.46m ASL (i.e. approxatmely 280mm deep and the feature 850mm wide. The deepest section lay at 34.45m ASL, close to the intersecting posthole [5115]. Close to the N side of the trench, the base was at 34.50m ASL and the margins at 34.63m (S) and 34.75m (N) ASL, giving an effective depth of approximately 190mm.

The feature was originally assigned a single fill (5047), but after an initial sondage across the feature, (5047) was restricted to an upper, dark soil with a maximum thickness of 150mm, that overlay a deposit of up to 100mm of redeposited natural clay (5081), which in turn overlay a stoney charcoal deposit (termed (5082) south of [5115] and (5106) to the north of posthole [5115]) locally up to 120mm thick, that in turn rested on top of the scorched (but not vitrified) natural. The total extent of the burnt deposit was approximately 3.65m by 0.80m. The scorching reaches to the top of the cut on both sides of the feature in the centre but dies out along the length of the cut.

Upper fill (5047) yielded 2507g of slag, 184g of bone and 60g of pottery, including a coarsely gritted rod handle fragment that joins a piece from context (5025), an overlying

stoney spread occupying much of the line of the downslope medieval drystone wall that also produced a large assemblage of medieval pottery, slag and bone. It seems likely that (5047) was intimately associated with (5025) on the S side of the trench – and it is unclear whether this rich assemblage also extended across the wider area of context (5047). Context (5047) was initially sampled as sample <12>, but since this may have included material from the full depth of the feature, a second sample, <25>, was taken purely of lower burnt fill (5082). The sample <12> of the upper fill produced a date on grain of *Triticum aestivum/turgidum* (Beta-798257; 1460+/-30BP; cal. AD 565-649)

Middle fill (5081), of redeposited natural, produced 2 sherds (23g) of medieval pottery, 820g of slag and 8g of bone. This context was not bulk-sampled.

The lower burnt fill (5082) produced 974g of slag, 6g of bone, a small nail head and a single 23g worn sherd of medieval glazed pottery. This was sampled as sample <25>. The equivalent layer N of the posthole, (5106), was sampled as sample <30>, but produced no finds.

A small sondage into this feature was recorded as cut [5062] filled by context (5063) produced 1 g of medieval pottery and 20g of slag. It is unclear precisely which contexts this sondage intersected.

Thus, gully [5107] appears to be of medieval age, possibly shallowing to a terminal against the line of the 'downslope' wall. It remains uncertain whether it is earlier or later than the furrow [5071] but is almost certainly younger.

## 1b SE area

The agricultural soils in this area included (5000), the topsoil, (5001), a post-medieval stoney soil (5004), and the paler medieval soil (5004).

Context (5001) produced a large quantity of mixed pottery, a penny of Edward I, minted 1280/1 in London, 2803g of slag and 877g of bone.

Context (5004) yielded 1391g of pottery, almost all medieval, 3373g of slag, 577g bone, a fiddle key nail and a medieval ring brooch.

Below the cultivation soil (5004) was context (5009), a brown clayey deposit that formed the interface with the underlying coarse stony deposit (5012).

Context (5009) produced 259g of medieval pottery, 7543g of slag, 239g of bone and a Cu-alloy strap end. There were also several nails, including a possible Cu-alloy covered doomed stud, and a crucible sherd. The coarse deposit (5012) yielded 7 pieces (19g) of

medieval pottery, a fiddle key nail, a Cu-alloy tubular rivet, 9 crucible sherds, 19889g of slag and 220g bone.

The coarse nature of the deposits at this level provided difficult to divide into discrete contexts.

A lens of redeposited natural (5015) was identified below (5012) and this yielded 9 pieces (53g) medieval pottery, 1 crucible sherd, a Cu-alloy tubular rivet, 15270g slag, and 280g bone. This lens was interpreted to have been contained with context (5016) (a darker clayey silt deposit). Context (5016) produced 8 pieces (27g) of medieval pottery, 8917g of slag, and 394g bone. Context (5016) overlay a distinct stone accumulation to the S. of the underlying feature.

The uppermost 80-100mm of the fill of the underlying feature at this depth was assigned to context (5029). This was recorded as producing 1 piece (1 g) of medieval pottery (possibly the lowest record of medieval pottery in this area), 6077g slag and 35g bone. This context overlay context (5031). Context (5031) was a darker stoney fill yielding 6688g slag, and 42g bone. It was bulk sampled as Sample <3>. This context abutted the edge of the natural in the E side of the trench. Context (5031) overlay a yellower context (5042), that produced just 174g of bone. As the cut widened into the trench, (5031) was observed to be overlain by redeposited natural (5045), supposedly in turn overlain by redeposited natural (5015) (but it is unclear how these two similar contexts related). Context (5045) produced just 105g of slag and 1g of bone.

To the N of this, context (5034) was suggested to be the fill of the oblique gully(?). It was a dark stoney deposit. It produced 2 crucible sherds, 2 pieces joining pieces of colour coated pottery, 3332g of slag, and 173g bone. It was bulk-sampled as sample <4>.

The problems of recognising depositional contexts within this complex of deposits was addressed by attempting to complete the sondage by cutting a simple section. This was attributed to an arbitrary stratigraphy with three successive bulk contexts (5056), (5061) and (5077). These produced only limited finds: 10.1kg of slag, 529g of bone, 2 crucible sherds and a wheel-turned pottery base in a sandy fabric, all from (5061). The pottery closely resembles Vale Ware, which would be unexpected at this stratigraphic horizon, but might alternatively be a Ham Green product.

Context (5061) is recorded as being separated from the underlying natural by context (5088), which produced 1840g of slag and 15g bone.

Removal of the bulk contexts in the N part of the sondage produced burial **SK25.4**. Excavation of the burial entailed removal of material designated as context (5076) (which yielded 4920g of slag, 27g of animal bone and a piece of iron ore). The grave cut was partially delimited as context [5086], with fill (5085). Full delineation of the grave cut was very difficult because of the extremely coarse nature of the fill through which

the grave must have been dug, with individual blocks of limestone of considerable size lying directly on bones – in some cases also apparently extending outside the grave cut. Fill (5085) produced 496g of slag. SK25.4 produced a date (Beta-794794; 1340+/-30 BP; on a fragment of rib) that calibrates to cal. AD 668-775 (74.3%), 787-830 (17.4%), 853-874 (3.7%). Thus, SK25.4 is more likely to belong to Phase 2 of the current scheme, than to Phase 3, although that is still possible.

Also in this complex of deposits was a feature described as a 'charcoal pit', with cut [5089] and fill (5090). This produced 649g of slag, 11g of bone and a Cu-alloy object sf#5247. This feature appears on the line of the southern gully, of which it may perhaps be a fill – although it could equally be a component of the broader backfill of the hollow.

Between the SE area and the 'SK9 extension' there was still some residual basal medieval cultivation soil (the equivalent of (5004) and (5005) in those areas respectively) that was excavated as context (5026). This produced 10 pieces (78g) of medieval pottery, 1758g of slag, and 206g of animal bone.

## 1c 'SK9 extension'

As in the SE area, there was a succession of topsoil (5000) over a post-medieval stoney soil (5001), in turn on a medieval cultivation soil (5005).

The medieval deposit (5005) produced 9.1kg of slag, 191g of animal bone, 3 pieces (52g of medieval pottery. Small finds were small iron fragments and nails.

This overlay a dark, slag-rich soil (5011) which yielded no pottery, but 4.3kg of slag and 33g of bone. There were no small finds.

Although a dividing line of dark soils to the N of the general area of the grave containing SK24.9) and paler soils to the south (possibly associated with the line of the 'uphill wall') was visible, locating the grave cut proved more difficult. Context (5013) was the fill of the grave ([5120]; which produced iron objects, interpreted as being associated with the grave – but this is uncertain, lots of casting debris, including that of silver, and two crucible sherds). Only once the grave floor was excavated could a cut be located with moderate confidence. The burial was **SK24.9** and **SK25.1**, for the cranial / immediately post cranial components and for the major part of the post-cranial skeleton respectively. SK25.1 produced a date (Beta-794793; 1380+/-30 BP; on a fragment of rib) that calibrates to cal. AD 602-678 (93.5%) 751-758 (1.8%), 770-770 (0.1%). Thus, SK25.1 belongs to Phase 1 or to Phase 2 of the current scheme.

Context (5014) was reserved for material excavated from outside the anticipated grave cut. This produced another crucible sherd.

The area surrounding the grave was later re-cleaned, as context (5087), which produced a fragment of iron sheet and a Cu-alloy spill.

Two potential features were then investigated:

Context (5093), a dark pocket in the NE corner extension, which produced Cu-alloy spills, and a nail head,

Context (5094), dark soil pocket on the E edge, which produced a nail head, two crucible sherds and a considerable piece of Cu-alloy spill together with 2371g of slag.

The area of context (5094) provided highly variable – and was this reminiscent of context (5013), the fill of the grave. It was deemed better to leave further investigation until a subsequent season, in case this was indeed another grave.

## 1d NE area and extension

The post-medieval stratigraphy in this corner of the trench and its extension is slightly more complicated than in other areas, with a repeated worm layer/topsoil combination – perhaps due to the progradation of the top of the slope in the 1960s, or perhaps during historical quarrying.

As across the site, context (5000) was the topsoil. The underlying post-medieval soil was context (5002), which unusually thickened up the slope to the E in the N of the site. Context (5002) produced 1234g of slag, 1321g of animal bone, and 661g of mixed pottery.

The underlying paler medieval stony soil, context (5007) produced many small finds, mainly nails, some but with some Cu-alloy, 25.5kg slag, 1139g bone, and 1462g of pottery, mostly medieval, but with minor post-med (possibly because the unusual inclination of the context boundaries led to excavation imperfectly following the boundary. Context (5007) also yielded three fiddle key nails and many other nails of other morphologies. The stoniness of this deposit set it apart from the agricultural soils in this stratigraphic position outside the area of the extension.

Removal of context (5007) revealed various patches of stone – two areas initially interpreted as postholes near the E boundary (contexts (5020) and (5021)), that were later reinterpreted as a linear cluster of large (some >200mm) stones (5027), wall (5032) and a stone patch to its N (5033).

Context (5020) 580g of slag, 84g of bone, and 56g medieval pot including a small tile fragment with a single small fragment of iron. Context (5021) produced 678g of slag, 14g of bone, and just 1g of medieval pottery. These were voided and replaced by context (5027), to which no finds were attributed in its own number.

Context (5022) was voided, but has a nail head, 1360g of slag and 1g bone attributed to it.

Context (5033) was a stoney layer (or stone pile) NW of wall 5032. It produced an iron object, possibly a chain link, 2058g of slag, 106g of bone and 5 sherds (22g) of medieval pottery.

Wall (5032) produced 3 pieces of iron (one a fiddle key nail), 812g of slag, 109g of bone, and 32 sherds (346g) of medieval pottery (including 1 large probable Saintonge ware sherd)

The area enclosed by wall (5032), ascribed to context (5024) to the level of the base of the wall produced a nail head, 4088g of slag, 154g of bone, 74 sherds (392g) of medieval

pottery (including 1 sherd of probable Saintonge ware). This context was bulk-sampled as sample <2>.

These stoney features all rested on dark slaggy deposit context (5030). This was taken to include all the slightly mottled slaggy deposits resting on the natural (or cut features) across not only the extension but the northern part of the E arm and the NE part of the central area. Context (5030) yielded 75 small finds, mostly of iron (including a single fiddle key nail, alongside 28 large nail heads and over 30 other pieces), but also sf#5257, a copper alloy strap-end, three pieces of torn copper alloy sheet and two pieces of Cu-alloy associated with iron (as decorative stud heads perhaps?). It also produced a, presumably intrusive, 20<sup>th</sup> century button. There were also 3 crucible sherds, 146.6kg of slag, 2.6kg of bone, and 40 sherds (248g) of medieval pottery. Context (5030) is thus largely the pre-wall deposit, although the further from the walls, the less certain this would be a precise attribution.

Outside the extension, context (5008) was a cleaning context below the geotextile membrane. A gully feature (previously identified in 2024) with cut [5019] had fill (5017). This deposit was rich in finds, including a small hone stone and a stone disc (possibly a weight) as well as various pieces of both ferrous and non-ferrous metal. It was bulk sampled as sample <1>. A fragment of *Prunus* charcoal from this sample produced a date (Beta-794799; 1310+/-30 BP) that calibrates to cal. AD 656-708 (47.1%), 713-717 (1.2%), 721-774 (47.1%). This date is consistent with Phase 2 of the current scheme.

To the S of this context (5018) was a very dark slaggy deposit pressed into hollows on the natural surface, which was locally burnt.

## 1e Central area

Context (5008) represented cleaning of the surface below the geotextile. Context (5091) was from cleaning along the S margin of this area, where the trench abutted the backfill of the 2023 trench.

Four graves (and a possible fifth) were investigated:

- The northern grave with the upper pebble fill centred upon [296673.76, 168664.44]. This was assigned cut **[5036]** and fill (5035). (5035) contained **SK25.2**, represented by part of the cranium and some teeth. SK25.2 was buried with head to the east. The grave had been numbered [4090] in 2024. The grave fill was sampled as samples <8>, <10>, and <13>. It produced 1734g of slag

(including a complete blowhole from a smithing hearth) and 34g of animal bone. It also yielded a crucible sherd and a probable large nail head.

- The northernmost grave in the western row (centred upon [296673.99, 168663.42]) contained partial skeleton **SK25.3** (head to west). The distal parts of this skeleton had been lifted in 2024 as SK24-13. The grave was numbered **[4105]** in 2024; it was given fill number (5051) in 2025. The fill was sampled as sample <18>. It produced 464g of slag and 21g of animal bone.
- The possible grave, allocated cut **[4091]** in 2024 (and centred upon [296674.23, 168663.99]), to the N of this was excavated but no conclusive cut could be found, nor any human remains. It is possible this apparent grave is an amalgamation of two partially-observed unrelated cuts. Material removed in this investigation appears to have been labelled as context (5037) and this produced 1807g of slag and 19g of animal bone.
- The SE grave of the cluster (centred upon [296676.33, 168662.39]) was investigated but was found to contain no surviving human remains. It was allocated cut **[5043]** and fill (5044). It had been allocated cut [4110] in 2024. The fill of the grave was sampled as samples <6>, <7>, <9> and <11>. It produced 745g of slag and 2g of animal bone.
- Slightly isolated from the rest of the cluster was grave **[5101]** with fill (5102), centred upon [296676.07, 168665.52], containing the relatively well-preserved **SK25.5**. The fill was sampled as samples <26> and <28>. The skull of SK25.5 was to the west and exposed in the side of the adjacent posthole **[5099]**, with fill (5100). Fill (5102) produced 279g of slag, a Cu-alloy droplet and a sherd of brazing shroud. Fill (5100) produced 981g of slag. SK25.1 produced a date (Beta-794795; 1340+/-30 BP; on a fragment of lower leg bone) that calibrates to cal. AD 645-706 (64.4%), 738-773 (31.0%). Thus, SK25.1 belongs to Phase 2 of the current scheme.

An area between graves [4056] and [4107]/[4108] was investigated and a pit, cut [5119] with fill (5092) was sampled as sample <27>. Earlier samples (<20>, <21>, <22>, <23>) were taken on the basis this was part of a corn drier, but the corn-containing layers may have been more superficial (and so perhaps reworked) and therefore these samples were potentially mixed. Once cleared, fill (5092) could be seen to have a location that could be interpreted as the E end of a grave passing westwards – something needing clarification in 2026. Finds from (5092) include 838g of slag and 193g of animal bone, together with a possible crucible sherd.

A possible posthole with cut [5095] and fill (5096) is listed for the central area. Context (5095) apparently yielded 271g of slag and 2g of bone. The location of this feature is currently uncertain.

## 2 Trench 5

The pre-excavation ground surface in the area of Trench 5 sloped from 36.47m ASL in the NE to 35.53m ASL in the SW.

The topsoil (context (5500) was largely removed by machine.

Context (5501) below the topsoil was a friable dark deposit, 100mm thick, with many finds of pottery, butchered animal bone, coke, clay pipe and various metal finds. This is interpreted as a later post-medieval to modern garden soil.

Context (5502) also extended across almost all of the trench. It was a thick layer of yellowish-brown clayey deposit with flecks of charcoal and abundant small limestone fragments. It yielded 1615 g of pottery pot (mostly medieval, but with a few post-medieval pieces), a fragment of bird bone flute fragment, a Cu-alloy thimble, a button, a hone, two iron knives and a fragment of a bone pin, alongside 1127g of animal bone and 420g of slag.

Two areas of stonier material, contexts (5505) and (5506) were intercalated within context (5502), neither produced any finds. Their upper surfaces lay at a level of 35.80m ASL in the south to 36.00 m in the N

The drystone structure of the well (5503) extended to level with the top of context (5502), where gaps between the stones allowed downward percolation of some post-medieval materials. The highest stonework at around 35.50m ASL in the W to 35.70m in the E.

The fill of the well comprised an upper, grey-brown silty clay (context 5504) and a lower fill, containing much coarse stone, probably quarry waste (context 5508). Context (5504) yielded 447g of medieval pottery, a medieval Cu-alloy buckle, a bird bone flute fragment, 835g of animal bone and 36 g of slag. Context (5508) produced 274g of medieval pottery (including an incurved dish fragment) plus 239g of pottery less certainly attributed to this context (as opposed to the overlying one). There was an iron object and 394g of animal bone plus a further 317g of animal bone similarly from either (5504) or (5508). The lowest excavation in the well was to a surface at approximately 34.35m ASL, 1.36m below the highest point on the surrounding stonework. The actual depth of the well remains unknown; probing was not possible because of the stone-rich nature of the lower fill.

Below (5502), context (5507) was a substantial layer (200mm in thickness) of yellow-brown silty clay bearing large, commonly angular, fragments of limestone. This was interpreted as quarrying waste. Context (5507) yielded 734g of medieval pot (includes incurved dish), 943g of animal bone, and 20g of slag. Context (5507) lay largely on a flat surface of natural bedrock varying in elevation from 35.6m in the N to 35.4m ASL in the S.

In the area round the well head, stoney deposit (5509) laterally related or overlay a thinned, context (5502). Context (5509) is listed as containing pottery and animal bone, but these have not yet been located in the collection.

The surface of the natural lay at approximately 35.3 to 35.4m ASL on the NE side (meaning the stonework reached approximately 200mm above the natural. Some slight indication was present of a cut very close to the rear face of the stonework. The bedrock in this area showed strong jointing (with clay fills at the rockhead) extending in a NW-SE direction – and this appears to have influenced the flattened NE face of the well in plan.

Towards the NW corner of the trench, a small hole or hollow on the trench margin (300mm along the trench margin, extending 150mm into the trench and 150mm deep) was designated [5511], with fill (5512). This deposit yielded part of an early medieval bone comb (sf# 5146). In this area the surface of the natural was at approximately 35.6m ASL.

Close to this an area of burning was present on the surface of the natural. This was recorded as (5513) on the limestone and a slightly separate area (5514) on clay to the W.

Overlying burnt material in the base of (5507) was designated as (5518) and was sampled as sample <5>.

In the same general area, a small hole [5516] with fill (5517) probably represented the removal of a block of limestone from the underlying rockhead.